

**Community Roundtable
Meeting Minutes
Evergreen Valley High School
June 29, 2004, 7:00PM to 9:00PM
Meeting Called to order at 7:00 PM**

ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS PRESENT: **Gordon Lund**, Groesbeck Neighborhood; **Ike White**, Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood; **James Webb**, Creekside HOA; **Michael Gabler**, Cedar Grove NA;;; **Vince Songcayawon**, Evergreen Business and Professional Association; **Silvia Alvarez**, Evergreen Teachers Association; **Sherry Gilmore**, Holly Oak PTA; **Meri Coleman**, Silver Estates, NA; **Mike Davis**, Villages Republican Club; **Kim Vu**, Girls for a Change; **George Perez**, Superintendent Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District; **Dan Jacobs**, Meadowlands HOA; **Dinesh Tyagi**, San Jose Landmark HOA

ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS ABSENT: **Dave Cortese**, District 8 Councilmember, **Anne Friend**, Glencourt NA; **H. Clay Whitlow**, Evergreen Valley College; **Daniel Rees**, Whispering Hills Mobile Park; **Gordon Fraser**, Greystone Neighborhood; Evergreen Youth Commissioner; **Rosemary Baes**, Resources for Families and Communities; **Jim Zito**, Quimby Creek NA; **John Petersen**, Eastridge Mall; **Kathy Carlyle**, Brigadoon Condominiums; **Ken Brisco**, Vineyard Park HOA; **Maria Lopez**, Meadowfair NAT; **Merrilee Claverie**, Evergreen Teachers' Association; **Nick Vicari**, Evergreen NA; **Rod Cryer**, Friends of Evergreen Library; **Sally Peralta**, Creekside; **Steve Tedesco**, Boys & Girls Club; **Susan Blucker**, Terrace Hills HOA; **Tom Andrade**, Superintendent of Evergreen School District; **Tony Loeb**, Pleasant Knoll; **Bea Baechele**, Evergreen Times; **Betty Ruboyianes**, Villages Alliance; **Cindi Schisler**, Meadowlands HOA; **Dallas Clark**, Evergreen Valley Service Organization; **Dan Jacobs**, Meadowlands HOA; **Daniel Gould**, Silver Creek Valley HOA; **Dinesh Tyagi**, San Jose Landmark HOA; **Henry Liem**, Groesbeck Neighborhood; **Jose Villanueva**, Creekside HOA; **Julius Calso**, Lakeside NA; **Khanh Nguyen**, LeyVA CAT; **Kevin Tso**, California Oak Creek; **Lila Martin-Geldert**, Creekside HOA; **Elizabeth Gill**, Villages Democratic Club; **Luis Heredia**, Creekwood Villa; **Marty Grimes**, Yerba Buena Villas HOA; **Tim McDoughna**, Evergreen Valley High School **Paula Shelton**, EHRAG;

Staff Present: **Kerynn Gianotti**, Councilmember Cortese's Office

I. Roundtable Dialogue

Ike White: In the Mt Pleasant boundary area there is 3500-4000 residents. I have been very pleased with Dave's election. Since Dave's election he has rallied around the Multi-purpose facility. The name of school is being changed to Ida Jew intermediate school. We are in the process of trying to build a neighborhood association as well as an action group. We want to join together with the Moose lodge, YMCA and schools. All of these are in the residential area. We will have a meeting on 6th of July to get approval of bylaws for the neighborhood association. We are trying to get mandatory things set up. We have officially named our group the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Association. Due to size we are looking toward smaller neighborhood organizations. It is easier to have 5 Neighborhood Associations and one Community Council. The council would be represented at the Roundtable. One issue that everyone is talking about is the Pleasant Hills Golf Course. It is important for the community to have input there. It is best to get their views of the community into the vision.

Sherri Gilmore: have you had an official meeting?

IW: No

Kerynn Gianotti: Ike has had six pre-organizing meetings. Can you tell people about how you have gotten this to snowball?

Ike: I have been deeply involved with the schools, school site council and with the parents. I was able to make contacts there. We began using the Backpack Express to distribute information.. We were given permission to pass out flyers. We passed out 5000 flyers for the first meeting. For the next meeting we passed out about 7000 flyers. We also went door-to-door with the Councilmember and his office. That yielded 20-25 people. Attendees were not aware of what a neighborhood associations can do. I credit Dave for explaining this to the neighbors.

KG: Sherry and I had a meeting at in the Holly Oak neighborhood. Only one other person showed up. We called residents, went door-to-door, sent flyers and placed flyers in kids backpacks. Has anybody else experience what Sherry and I experienced in Holly Oak?

Gordon Lund: I organized a very large area and did it on basis of an issue. To organize for the purpose of just organizing is pointless. It is good to set up block captains and to create phone chains. We organized around a park. This worked very well and was very effective. We had a number of meetings with high attendance. We did surveys and they had a real impact. We also found a source of money from the County through Zoe Lofgren. We were able to get 1.6 million for the park.

IW: Do you think the issue of developing Pleasant Hills is a good issue to rally around?

Lou Kvitek. With my organization we need to communicate with our residents but are worried that turnout won't be as great because it is summertime. Did Ike do a CA Corp EIN?

Mike Davis: Villages have things in place like district advisory council. Neighborhood organizing has to have a unique selling proposition. The Democratic and Republican parties have leadership in place. Folks are already there and on the ground. There is no reason we can't tap into that. No reason we can't get that information.

Dan Jacobs: Is the board at the villages an elected body?

MD: Yes, there are three separate corporations.

II. Debrief of Bus Trip

Sherri Gilmore: The Bus trip was good. I think atmosphere would be different during Davis period. People seemed to be scared or intimidated by the Governor.

IW: I was set back listening to the California Teachers Association. Teachers in the Mt. Pleasant area are near the bottom of the pay scale. For the amount of explaining on proposition 98 they yielded to a movie star. There is no concrete information as to what was going to happen. When we got back and talked to the President of the local CTA it was different. There are a number of alternatives on how to get dollars and that was conveyed. We don't need to take it from education.

Silvia Alvarez, Legislators thought they had been undercut. The chip was to the equalization issue. I was pleased the Republicans in the group were the ones who spoke out the most. They did not feel this should be a partisan issue. It is not the case that Republicans are not for this. As a board member it gave me hope.

MD: I didn't have an opportunity to go on the trip. The problem is we are \$35 million in the hole. We have to come up with a way to make money. There is a lot of property the state owns. They need to sell off property. The partisan parties need to get off their butts (legislatures). We have to show them how they can clean up this mess. General citizens just don't know what they don't know.

III. Evergreen Visioning Update

Laurel Prevetti, Deputy Director Planning

Britta Buys, Planner

Laurel: There are four key properties: Arcadia, Industrial, Pleasant Hills and the Evergreen Valley College; Arcadia, which is near Eastridge, was part of a Charette effort that resulted in a document. All the work that happened in the Charette is really

how a lot of this got started. Evergreen Valley College is interested in doing more retail on their site. The third is a large site on the campus industrial. Hitachi is leasing Dade bearing building. All are very interested in changing from industry to housing. Pleasant Hills many include some retail some housing and open space.

Last Wednesday we had a meeting where we got more detailed and tried to identify a package of amenities and traffic mitigation. We are working on a plan that will go into 2004-2005 and the Environmental Impact Report will be developed. In July the consultants will work on the recommendations of the task force. The capacity of housing is about 7000 units. The task force wants around 5000 units. Traffic is the big issue. Schools are also a real concern.

LK: Is the \$104 million the total cost for traffic?

LP: Yes, the money is something that we would love to get from the state but everybody knows the state has a budget problem. Without the developer money this will be 10 years away.

LP: We are just starting to do outreach. Last Wednesday we met with the SNI NAC. People want more information. We will get into more detail and look at what developers really want to do. The council office is committed to making sure these come together as one package. This is a challenge because this is something we have not done before. It is a challenge because the parcels are not right next to each other.

MD: What are you going to do about the airport?

LP: The airport is not going away so we will have to meet all the requirements.

LV: Is there any precedent for giving money for traffic improvements? We have never done this kind of thing in San Jose, is this correct?

LP: In Coyote Valley, the VTA the was given money for traffic.

James Webb: Is there an equity issue, did the developers approach the city?

LP: Yes, two general plan amendments were filed. We recognized that we should not piecemeal this. We could get more if we looked at it comprehensively.

LP: We are looking at widening 101, as well as investment of light rail.

Dinesh Teng: We need to be more realistic that we cannot solve the problem.

Mike Gabler: What is the EVP doing about the schools.

LP: We are addressing this. We are working with the school districts. They are looking at new schools; they are looking into a new high school.

LK: Land is disappearing. 1500 new high school students are coming into Evergreen. What are we going to do about land for a new school?

Silvia Alvarez: We may need to go up.

SG: Can traffic information be placed on the web?

IW: At the EVP meeting the schools issue was the number one issue on everybody's list.

LP: We need to address what is exactly going to happen.

MD: in regards to the schools, there has been also talk about using the vacant industrial land. If there is no money to build a school in your neighborhood it is just the way it is. Gordon Lund. There is an interest in reducing the size of the school.

Granny Units:

LP: R1 zoning, if you are in an older neighborhood it can affect you. The unit has to be very small (650 Sq Ft) and it has to have a parking space. Placement would have to be in the same area as any potential expansion. Many neighborhoods are very interested in how this will affect them. Some people are all for it. Others are completely against it. The City is having 20 community meetings. They are working with the council offices. Each district will have two community meetings. We are trying to gather data so that we will be able to tell you how many R1 lots we have and how can we increase housing supply to make it more affordable.

LK: Will the traffic model constrain some from even looking at this?

LP: There is a longstanding SJ policy that we do not allow this.

IW: Will this start with certain ages of developments: People are already making rooms and sheds.

LP: The state has passed a law that says there can be no discretion. The rules have changed at the state regarding life safety and code enforcement will get involved.

Gordon Lund: When will this get to council

LP: The earliest it will go is probably is November.

Dan Jacobs: What is minimum lot size?

LP: 6000 square feet is minimum.

DJ: Why would some areas not be eligible? Why is R1 chosen?

LP: Some of these areas have very specific requirements.

Organizing the RT

KG: At the last RT meeting Dave brought up the idea of the RT being independent from Dave. At some point it is important for that to happen so that the RT has a long life and when Dave is out of office that it continues.

GL: This is an excellent idea, anytime you organize a group you have to have an objective. We need to come up with those objectives.

LK: We are in a unique situation. How would we take votes? After EVP dissolves we may want to make policy statements. We could be spending a lot of time in this meeting talking about EVP. We may also want to look at collecting dues but it is my understanding that you have to be non-political to collect dues.

SA: We need to have more people here for this discussion. We need more input.

KG: We can schedule this discussion for the next RT meeting but in the meantime is there anything we can do from the council office to get you prepared for this discussion?

JW: I am on an HOA board, are most of you neighborhood associations?

KG: The Roundtable is made up of neighborhood associations, homeowner associations, community organizations and business associations,

Mike Gabler: Is there an issue for the Roundtable to work on that has come up?

Vince Songcayawon: Can we have a person from the Berryessa Group come and speak at our next meeting?

KG: I will talk with Dave and invite someone from the group.

GL: The average citizen doesn't know what issues are out there. Can the council office give us a list of what the top issues are that are being dealt with? What are the issues that Dave would like feedback on?

Dan Jacobs: EVP is a good example of whether or not we are connected to what the community wants. Many EVP members are against the light rail project. Voters voted for it. What is it that neighbors really want?

Sherrie Gilmore: Earthquake preparedness may be something that residents are interested in.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Action Items for next meeting:

1. Invite person from the Berryessa to speak at next roundtable

2. Let roundtable know of issues that Dave would like feedback on and complaints that regularly come into the office.
3. Pass out information on Earthquake preparedness.